

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, YO, TU, UK, IT

SUBJECT: GOY DEMARCHE ON NATO EXERCISE IN ADRIATIC

REF: BELGRADE 5780, 5758; STATE 253509

1. YUGOSLAV CHARGE PETKOVIC CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN ON INSTRUCTIONS NOVEMBER 18 TO DELIVER LOW KEY DEMARCHE REGARDING RECENT NATO EXERCISE IN ADRIATIC.

2. AFTER REITERATING POINTS MADE TO US CHARGE IN BELGRADE (BELGRADE 5758), PETKOVIC WENT A STEP FURTHER BY CALLING ON THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES TO REFRAIN FROM SUCH MANEUVERS IN THE FUTURE.

3. HARTMAN RESPONDED BY OBSERVING THAT THE EXERCISE WAS OF VERY MODEST PROPORTIONS, THE SHIPS INVOLVED HAD OPERATED IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS AND HAD VISITED ONLY NATO-COUNTRY
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PORTS, AND THERE WAS NO RPT NO INTENTION THAT THE EXERCISE

BE VIEWED AS PRESSURE ON YUGOSLAVIA'S NON-ALIGNED POSITION. AFTER NOTING THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER HAD OUTLINED HIS VIEWS ABOUT THE US-YUGOSLAV RELATIONSHIP IN CONSIDERABLE DETAIL DURING HIS NOVEMBER 4 TALKS WITH YUGOSLAV LEADERS, HARTMAN EMPHASIZED THAT THE NATO EXERCISE IN NO RPT NO WAY DETRACTED FROM THIS AUTHORITATIVE STATEMENT OF US POLICY.

4. AFTER LISTENING TO HARTMAN'S RESPONSE, PETKOVIC STATED THAT AS A RESULT OF THE NATO EXERCISE "EVERYONE ELSE CAN COME INTO THE ADRIATIC TO ENGAGE IN MANEUVERS", A DEVELOPMENT THE GOY WOULD NOT RPT NOT WELCOME. PETKOVIC CONCLUDED BY OBSERVING THAT ON SEVERAL RECENT OCCASIONS US AND GOY LEADERS HAVE DISCUSSED THE MUTUAL INTEREST OF THE TWO COUNTRIES IN TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ISSUES TO WHICH EITHER SIDE IS PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE. FROM THE YUGOSLAV POINT OF VIEW, THIS IS AN ESPECIALLY SENSITIVE MATTER, SAID PETKOVIC.

5. HARTMAN TOOK NOTE OF THIS YUGOSLAV SENSITIVITY, EMPHASIZED AGAIN THAT THE EXERCISE SHOULD NOT RPT NOT BE CONSTRUED AS A FORM OF PRESSURE ON YUGOSLAVIA, AND OBSERVED THAT NATO COUNTRIES HAVE A LEGITIMATE RIGHT TO DEFEND THE TERRITORY OF ALLIANCE MEMBERS. INGERSOLL

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